

## 38991 to 39101—Continued.

**39050. RHEUM NOBILE** Hook. f. and Thoms. Polygonaceæ. **Rhubarb.**

"A handsome herbaceous plant, with a stem 3 to 4 feet high and as thick as the wrist at the base. It is found in the inner ranges of the Sikkim Himalayas at altitudes between 13,000 and 15,000 feet. The root resembles that of the medicinal rhubarb, but is spongy and inert. The acid stems are eaten both raw and boiled, and the dried leaves afford a substitute for tobacco." (*Watt, Dictionary of the Economic Products of India.*)

**39051. RHODODENDRON ANTHOPOGON** Don. Ericaceæ. **Rhododendron.**

"A small shrub, with very aromatic, strongly scented leaves, common at altitudes between 11,000 and 16,000 feet on the alpine Himalayas, from Kashmir to Bhutan, and distributed to central and northern Asia. The leaves of this plant are aromatic, and their smoke is considered by the natives to be useful in some diseases. They are supposed to contain stimulant properties and are collected and exported to the plains, where they are officinal. This is one of the species which is thought by the Bhutias to excite the headache and nausea which attends ascents to the high elevations of the eastern Himalayas." (*J. D. Hooker. In Watt, Dictionary of the Economic Products of India.*)

"An evergreen shrub, 2 feet or less high, of compact habit; young branchlets hairy and covered with brown scurf. Leaves oval or ovate, 1 to 1½ inches long, one-half to three-fourths inch wide, dark, rather glossy green above, covered with brown scales beneath; stalk one-fourth inch long. Flowers sulphur colored, one-half to three-fourths inch across, produced in a small terminal cluster, 1 to 1½ inches wide. Corolla thin, almost transparent; tube hairy inside, expanding at the mouth into five wavy lobes; calyx lobes oblong, pale green, one-eighth inch long, fringed at the margin; stamens five (sometimes up to eight), very short, and included within the tube; flower stalk scaly, one-sixth inch or less in length. Flowers in April.

"Native of the high Himalayas from Cashmere eastward, up to 16,000 feet altitude, where it covers large areas; introduced in 1820. The whole plant has a strong, aromatic, slightly acrid odor, especially when crushed. It is an interesting little plant and one of the hardiest of Himalayan species, but not in any way showy." (*W. J. Bean, Trees and Shrubs Hardy in the British Isles, vol. 2, p. 341.*)

**39052. RHODODENDRON ARBOREUM** Smith. Ericaceæ. **Rhododendron.**

"A tree which often attains a height of 25 feet, common on the temperate Himalayas from the Indus to Bhutan, at altitudes between 5,000 and 10,000 feet. It is frequent on the Khasi Hills, between 4,000 and 6,000 feet, and occurs also on the hills of southern India and Ceylon, very abundant in Manipur, and on the Kareen Hills in Burma. The leaves of the young trees are poisonous and are used medicinally for headaches. The flowers have a sweet-sour taste and are said to make a good subacid jelly. They are, in some parts of the Himalayas, eaten by the natives, who become intoxicated if they consume a large quantity. The wood is soft, reddish white or reddish brown in color, and even grained, and apt to warp and shrink. The wood is chiefly used for fuel and charcoal, but it is also sometimes employed for building and for making dishes." (*Watt, Dictionary of the Economic Products of India.*)